

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings received on May 19, 2005 as follows: Fig. 1 by changing the dimension identified by reference character B to that as shown thereon; Figs. 1 and 2 by removing the extra line as shown thereon; and Figs. 1 and 2 by changing the cross-hatching of the bellows 28 to indicate the proper sectioning for the material as shown thereon, all of these changes shown in red on the attached drawings. Attached herewith are "Replacement Sheets" Figs. 1 and 2, and "Annotated Marked-Up Drawings" of Figs. 1 and 2. Formal drawings will be submitted upon approval of these changes and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, the drawings and specification have been amended to overcome the rejections set forth in the Official Action dated August 5, 2005. Also, Claims 1 to 5 have been cancelled and new Claims 6 to 19 have been added. The application now includes Claims 6 to 19 with Claims 6, 12 and 17 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 defines the invention as a ball joint including a housing, a ball stud and a sealing bellows which lies against the housing and the ball stud in order to seal between the housing and the ball stud, said ball stud having a holding surface against which a sealing surface of said sealing bellows lies. Claim 1 further *positively recites* that the sealing surface defines a *first axial dimension*, the holding surface defines a *second axial dimension*, wherein the *first axial dimension of the sealing surface of the sealing bellows is greater than the second axial dimension of the holding surface of the ball stud*. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such an assembly as defined in Claim 1.

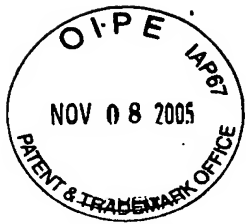
Specifically, German Patent DE 1,575,708 does not disclose or suggest that the *sealing surface defines a first axial dimension*, the *holding surface defines a second axial dimension*, and wherein the *first axial dimension of the sealing surface of the sealing bellows is greater than the second axial dimension of the holding surface of the ball stud*, as recited in Claim 6. (Emphasis added). Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 6, along with dependent Claims 7 to 11, are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 12 contains similar limitations to that of Claim 6. Accordingly, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 6, it is believed that Claim 12, along with dependent Claims 13 to 16, are patentable over the cited references.

Method Claim 17 contains similar limitations to that of Claim 6. Accordingly, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 6, it is believed that Claim 17, along with dependent Claims 18 and 19, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not

believe that the above remarks and amendments place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900 to discuss the application prior to the issuance of an action in this case by the Examiner.



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Serial No. Sheet 1 of 1 Docket No. 1-24671

ANNOTATED
MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS

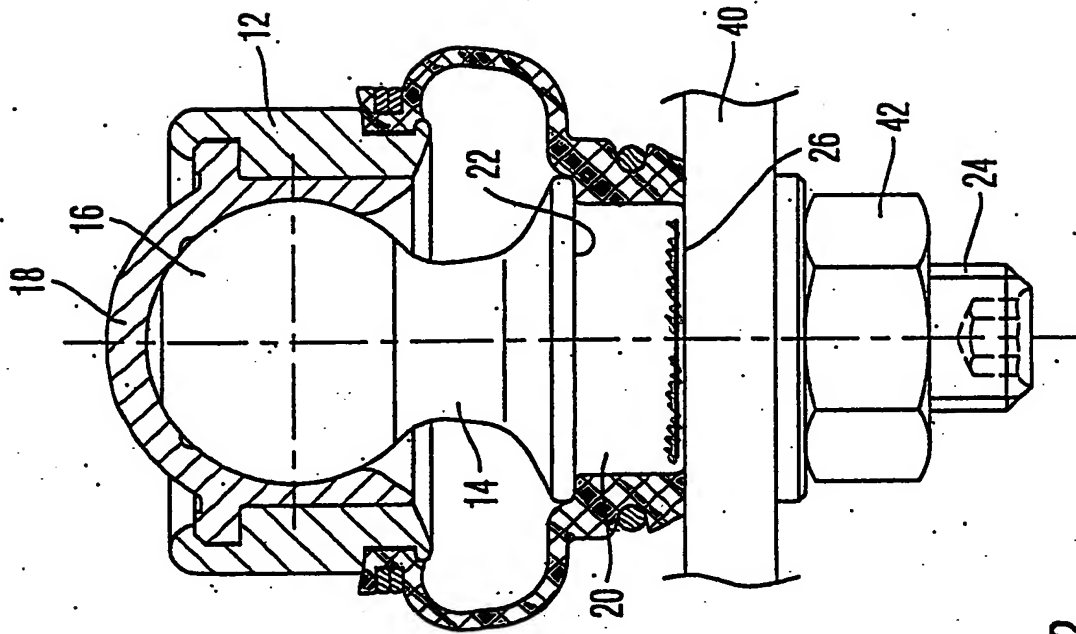


Fig. 2

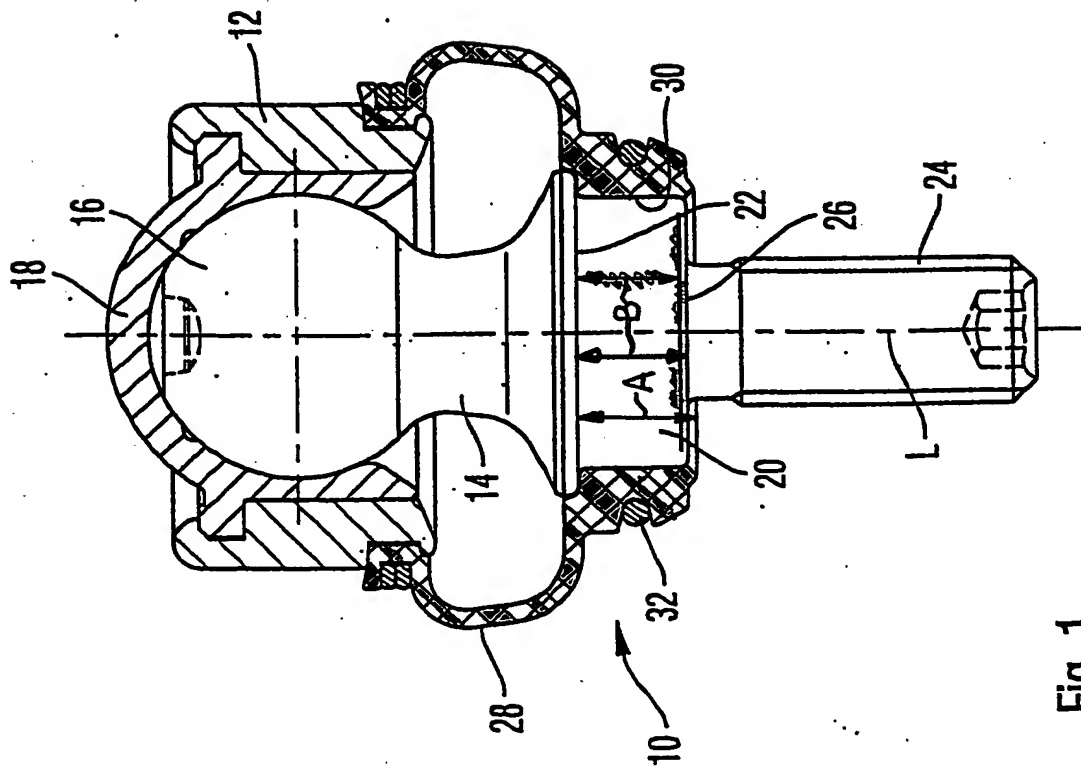


Fig. 1